



# Western South Dakota Outdoor Report

Wildlife Division Region 1  
April 6, 2015



Waterfowl – No report  
Big Game – No report

## Region 1 Wildlife Report

### North District

DATE: 03-10-2015

### Butte/Lawrence/Meade/Perkins Counties/Ziebach

Reporting Officers: DCOS Mike Apland, WCO Bill Eastman. WCO Keith Mutschler, WCO Ross Fees, WCO Fred Hein

#### Fishing -

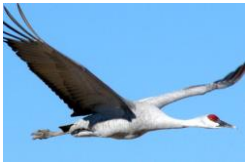


**With this year's winter weather, anglers need to pay special attention to current ice conditions. Remember ice conditions can change rapidly and may be different from your last trip out. Check ice before venturing out, look for open water, and avoid pressure ridges.**

- **Butte County**
  - **Belle Fourche Res/Orman** – Angler success has slowed since earlier reports. Be careful of ice and look for open water. The ice conditions continue to change daily. As the temperatures continue to rise the ice has started turning. Please ensure that you are safe on the ice.
- **Lawrence**
  - Angler success and reports have deteriorated some in the past few weeks. As Spring gets closer the bite will increase.

- **Meade County**
  - **Bear Butte lake** – This winter’s activity has been slow. Ice conditions continue to change daily. Later this week most of the lake will likely be open. This spring should offer great opportunity to catch a Northern!
  - **Ft Meade** – Ice conditions have detreated! Anglers please stay off the ice!
  - **Durkee Lake** – The Lake is currently 30% open. Ice conditions are deteriorating.
- **Perkins County**
  - **Shadehill Reservoir** - Ice is unstable and caution should be used.
  - **Flat Creek** – Ice appears to be honeycombed in several areas. A few nice northern pike have been caught in the past week.
- **Ziebach Co.**
  - Some of our smaller stock dams had open water. Remaining ice should be considered unstable.

## Hunting Report:



**Waterfowl – No report**



**Small Game – No report**

**Big Game**



**Region 1 Wildlife Report**

## Central District

(SE Lawrence, S Meade, C Pennington, E Pennington, Haakon, N Jackson, NE Custer)

**Reporting Officers:** WCO's Brainard, Edwards, Geigle, Keeton, Thomsen  
DCOS McCormick

**DATE:** 4/1/2015

## Fishing Activity: Western South Dakota

### Black Hills area lakes and streams:



The ice has come off of most of the lakes in the hills. . A few lake trout and northern pike have been caught in the open water on Pactola. Lakes on the prairie have all opened up. The bite is still slow. Bullheads are being caught at Curlew Lake. A few Larger Mouth Bass were being caught on New Underwood Dam.

### Wildlife:

Archery Turkey season opens April, 4 2015.  
Please review archery equipment regulations  
prior to going out in the field.



If you witness hunting violations, you may choose to remain anonymous and assist Officers by calling the TIPS hotline. The number is printed on the front cover of the 2014 fishing and hunting handbooks. Do your best to collect the license number of the vehicle involved? Your call will assist officers with making contact with the individuals involved and changing their future hunting behavior. Illegal hunting behavior is destructive to the future of our hunting heritage.

**Other Seasons** - Coyote numbers seem up this year and comparing low gas prices to fur prices, hunters/trappers are enjoying the challenge of harvesting coyotes.

## Misc.

- **HuntSafe** – Classes are currently being scheduled across the state. Visit the GFP website under outdoor learning to check for upcoming classes in your area. If you don't see a class in your area, check periodically for updates to come.
- **Lawrence Co.** – Recently SDGFP has released Big Horn sheep in the Deadwood area. If you see the new additions, be careful and enjoy.

County	Pennington		
	Canadas	Ducks	Snows
NE			
NW			
SE			
SW			

**DATE:** 3/24/2015

## Region 1 Wildlife Report

### Southern District

**Date:** 3/31/2015

**County:** **Bennett/East Shannon/South Jackson**

**Reporting Officer:** WCO Tom Beck

#### Fishing Activity:

The warm weather has the bass biting. I saw several nice fish caught on Todd Dam over the weekend, but other private dams were also producing fish. Please remember to check and see if you purchased your 2015 license prior to going fishing though. Please remember to stay on the mowed trails when going fishing at Todd Dam. We do not need any more wild fires in the area.



#### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl** – It is still a great time to see waterfowl on the local ponds and lakes. While breeding pairs of geese have claimed their territory and in

some cases started hatching eggs, there are also small flocks of non breeding birds around the area also. There are many different varieties of ducks on the ponds also. One indication that spring might be just around the corner is that the White Pelicans have returned to LaCreek Refuge. Quite a few can be seen on the Pelican Islands with bunches of birds feeding on many of the local lakes.

**Small Game** – We are heading into this spring optimistic about the upland game population. We carried over quite a few pheasants and if we have a good spring and summer, we may have a good hatch which will help build the population some more. All we can do at this point is wait and see. I do not expect this year to get back to the fantastic hunting we had a few years ago, but we could see respectable populations of pheasants and grouse this fall if everything works right.

**Big Game** – Elk season will be finalized at the April Commission Meeting. We are looking at a few more tags for this area. We have also proposed moving the north boundary for the area to BIA 2 and Highway 44 to address depredation issues. We are in the process of developing our proposals for deer seasons. Hunter success locally was around the 50 to 55% for the west river deer season. It was actually a little better than I expected, while below what we would like to see for success. The population is slowly building, but it will take a few years to get the populations back to desirable levels.

**Land Report** --We are presently working on the 2015 Walk in Hunting enrollment. If you know of anyone that may be interested in enrolling their land in the program, please have them contact me.

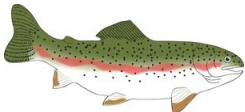


**Date:** 3/25/2015

**County:** **West Custer/West Pennington**

**Reporting Officer:** WCO Jacob Ehlert

**Fishing:** No report.



**Big Game:** Turkey numbers appear to be down. I will update in a few weeks when they begin to spread out.

Elk tag numbers will be finalized at the April Commission Meeting. Our plan is to increase cow tags in unit two to stabilize the population. The population will continue to grow with the increased harvest, but the rate of growth will decrease.

**District Report:** There will be a Huntsafe class in Custer starting April 21st, the class will be held at Southern Hills Tactical. You can check out the available classes on the GF&P website.

If you are interested in enrolling in Walk-In-Area please contact me. Also if you have not had landowner elk tags in the past and are eligible you must contact me before you apply!

If you have any information about a violation please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!



Date: 3/23/2015

County: **East Custer/South Pennington**

Reporting Officer: WCO Ron Tietz

**Fishing Activity:**

The ice is mostly gone on all area lakes. With the nice weather, fishermen have been out trying their luck. Some success on trout has been taking place at Legion, Sylvan and Center Lake. Fishing has been slow on Stockade Lake for pan fish, but as the water warms success will get better.

Lakota, Bismarck and Horse thief lakes were all drained for the fall and winter and the clean out has been completed. Some fish were removed and transferred to other waters. In the last couple weeks the three lakes have been filling back up, it's a slow process but as soon as they are full they will be stocked with trout from the area hatcheries.

**Big Game:**

No report.

**District Report:**

There will be a Huntsafe class in Hill City starting April 23rd, the class will be held at the Hill city fire dept. classroom. You can check out the available classes on the GF&P website. As always, if you witness a wildlife violation, try to get as much information as you can and call your local Wildlife Conservation Officer or the tip hotline 1-888-683-7224.

Date: 3/25/2015

County: **Fall River**

Reporting Officer: WCO DJ Schroeder

**Fishing Activity:**

Fishermen were doing pretty good at Angostura this weekend. It appeared as though there was an average of about 2 walleyes per boat and some nice fish being caught from shore as well. The spawn will be



soon, so fishermen will have to adjust their presentations accordingly. Remember the length limits and culling restrictions at Angostura.



#### **Hunting Report:**

**Small Game -** The turkey numbers look good this year. The gobblers are going strong already and sounding off at everything from car doors to barking dogs. This is a good time to get out and do some scouting before the upcoming season begins.

**Big Game –** Lion hunters have picked up a few tracks in the area - - but struggle to kill lions down south. Usually issues with pursuing the lion across private property. Snow conditions are also pretty bad down this way.

**Predators and Trapping - -** nothing to report this week

#### **Land Report:**

We are currently working on grazing and farming leases for the GFP properties. Also, Walk-In Area sign up will begin shortly. If you have land or know someone who has quality hunting property please consider using this program. It has been very popular and successful over the years.

#### **District Report:**

Please take the time to record a license number and vehicle description when you witness a fish or game violation. Don't hesitate to call the TIP's Hotline or the local Sheriff's Office and report the violators. You will help us all preserve the sport!

If you have any information please call TIPS at 1-888-OVERBAG or your local Sheriff's Office. Making the call can prevent poachers from stealing YOUR public resource!

Mountain lion season is in full swing and conditions are currently very good with the new snow we just acquired. We are now in the last month of the season and have a harvest of 34 mountain lions (as of this writing).

The season will end March 31 or when the quota of 75 lions or 50 female lions is met. We are also in the 3rd interval of the CSP hound access season and 1 out of the 4 hunters has filled with a 125 pound male lion. This is a unique opportunity for hunters to hunt lions with the use of hounds. Lions taken in CSP will be counted in the quota.



**The GFP commission adopted a rule to allow the use of hounds to hunt mountain lions on the prairie outside of the Black Hills; this went into effect on March 2nd. Please be respectful of private property, we have been busy taking calls in regards to hunters trespassing on private lands this fall.**

#### **District Report:**

**There will be a Huntsafe class in Hill City starting April 23rd, the class will be held at the Hill city fire dept. classroom. You can check out the available classes on the GF&P website. As always, if you witness a wildlife violation, try to get as much information as you can and call your local Wildlife Conservation Officer or the tip hotline 1-888-683-7224.**

**Date: 3/4/2015**

**e illegal activity going on and we could use your help to identify those incidents.**

## **wildlife Report**

#### **District Report:**

**And as always, if you witness a wildlife violation, try to get as much information as you can and call your local Wildlife Conservation Officer or the tips hotline.  
1-888-683-7224.**

#### **Land Report:**

**Trappers should be reminded that you must obtain permission to trap on Walk-In-Areas. Game, Fish and Parks is only leasing the hunting rights - - not the trapping privileges.**

**Waterfowl hunters need to be aware that it is illegal to hunt near the Fall River Feedlot - - it would be a violation of the “baiting” regulations. Please read your hunting handbook to refresh on the rules.**

#### **Hunting Report:**



**Small Game: Waterfowl hunters are still finding some goose hunting opportunities in certain areas. Duck season is over – so the “pressure” is are**